

DEAN IS ELECTED HEAD OF BROWN U.

Keeney, 40, Fills Wriston
Post as 12th President—
Accepts With 'Humility'

PRAISES PREDECESSOR

Special Panel Commends
High Scholarship of the
New Administrator

Special to The New York Times.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Aug. 16

—Dr. Barnaby C. Keeney was elected president of Brown University today. The 40-year-old educator has been Dean of the College here.

He succeeds Dr. Henry M. Wriston, the university president since 1937, who was designated president emeritus today. Dr. Wriston became eligible for retirement when he reached his sixty-fifth birthday.

Dr. Keeney's election took place at a special meeting of the Brown Corporation and was announced by Harold B. Tanner, the chancellor. The body acted after receiving a recommendation to that effect from a special committee, headed by Mr. Tanner, which had been seeking a candidate for the last year.

The committee, in unanimously recommending Dr. Keeney, declared:

"We have found no other person who is in our judgment as well qualified to guide the immediate future destinies of our university or as able to assure a successful and orderly transition from the present to a new administration."

Scholarship Commended

The report observed that "qualified commentators in his field of scholarship [medieval history] assert that there are few, if any, persons in this field who are his equal" and that "his associates in administrative office testify that his work is superlative."

Following the election, Dr. Keeney — who became the twelfth president of the nation's seventh oldest college — was escorted by Dr. Wriston to the Faculty and Corporation Room in University Hall on the campus.

He told the members of the Board of Fellows and the Board of Trustees:

"I accept this high office with confidence, confidence in the strength of this university, which has never attained a higher state than under the leadership of Henry Merritt Wriston."

Dr. Keeney then presided over the balance of the corporation meeting. Immediately afterward, Chancellor Tanner presented him at a special meeting of the university faculty and administrative officers.

The new president of Brown is the son of Robert M. Keeney and the late Maud Barnaby Keeney of Farmington, Conn. His father was an engineer in metallurgy whose work took him to various sections of the country. Dr. Keeney was born on Oct. 17, 1914, in Halfway, Ore. In 1928 the family moved to Hartford, Conn., where young Keeney attended the public schools.

Phi Beta Kappa Man

He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of North Carolina in 1936,

where he was top man in his class and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was awarded a fellowship to the Harvard Graduate School and received his master's degree in 1937 and his Doctor of Philosophy degree there in 1939. His doctoral dissertation dealt with the development of the protection of the individual's life and property against an arbitrary state.

Remaining at Harvard, Dr. Keeney was appointed an assistant in history during 1939-40, and from 1940 to January, 1942, was a tutor and instructor in the Division of History, Government and Economics.

He volunteered for service the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor and was inducted into the Army as a private the following month. He attended Officers Candidate School, was commissioned a second lieutenant and for a while taught gunnery.

Because of his language ability in French and German he was transferred to a military intelligence training center and in 1944 went overseas as officer in charge of an interrogation team. While in Europe he received the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart. He was separated from service in October, 1945, with the rank of captain.

He joined the Brown faculty the following September as an assistant professor of medieval history and was appointed Associate Dean of the Graduate School two years later. He became dean of that school in July, 1948, and the following year was advanced to the rank of associate professor.

He became a full professor in 1951, and took a leave of absence for one year to do classified work for the Central Intelligence Service. When he returned to the campus, he was named acting dean of the college, and in 1953 was appointed as dean.

Dr. Keeney married the former Mary Critchfield of Hartford on June 27, 1941. They have three children, Barbara, Alice, 11; Thomas Critchfield, 8, and Elizabeth, 6.

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